



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 9071



Offered by:

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.

REP. SANCHEZ, 25th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. **1022**

File No. 899

Cal. No. 493

"AN ACT CONCERNING MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the school year
4 commencing July 1, 2020, and each school year thereafter, the Minority
5 Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council, established pursuant to
6 section 10-156bb of the general statutes, in consultation with the
7 minority teacher recruitment task force, established pursuant to section
8 10-156aa of the general statutes, shall develop and implement
9 strategies and utilize existing resources to ensure that at least two
10 hundred fifty new minority teachers and administrators, of which at
11 least thirty per cent are men, are hired and employed by local and
12 regional boards of education each year in the state. As used in this
13 section, "minority" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-
14 156bb of the general statutes.

15 Sec. 2. Section 10-146c of the general statutes is repealed and the
16 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

17 (a) As used in this section:

18 (1) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of
19 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or territories or
20 possessions of the United States; and

21 (2) "Educator preparation program" means a program designed to
22 qualify an individual for [professional] certification as an educator
23 provided by institutions of higher education or other providers,
24 including, but not limited to, an alternate route to certification
25 program.

26 (b) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee,
27 as agent for the state shall enter into reciprocity agreements concerning
28 educator certification reciprocity with the chief education officials for
29 each state. If the commissioner is unable to establish a reciprocity
30 agreement with another state, the commissioner may establish or join
31 an interstate agreement pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

32 [(b)] (c) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
33 designee, as agent for the state shall establish or join interstate
34 agreements with other states to facilitate the certification of qualified
35 educators from other states. Any such interstate agreement shall
36 include provisions requiring candidates for certification to, at a
37 minimum, (1) hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited
38 college or university, (2) have fulfilled post-preparation assessments as
39 approved by the commissioner, and (3) have successfully completed
40 an approved educator preparation program. Notwithstanding the
41 provisions of sections 10-145b and 10-145f, as amended by this act, the
42 State Board of Education shall issue the appropriate [professional]
43 certificate to any applicant, based on such applicant's qualifications,
44 who satisfies the requirements of the appropriate interstate agreement.

45 [(c)] (d) If the commissioner is unable to establish or join a

46 reciprocity agreement or an interstate agreement with another state,
47 the commissioner may create and make available a recognition
48 statement that specifies the states, assessments and educator
49 preparation programs that the commissioner will recognize for
50 purposes of issuing [professional] certification under sections 10-145b,
51 as amended by this act, and 10-145f, as amended by this act.

52 (e) Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the
53 commissioner shall submit a progress report on the development and
54 implementation of reciprocity agreements and interstate agreements
55 and any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing
56 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
57 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
58 4a.

59 Sec. 3. Section 10-145l of the general statutes is repealed and the
60 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

61 On and after July 1, [2010] 2019, the State Board of Education shall
62 allow an applicant for certification to teach in a subject shortage area
63 pursuant to section 10-8b or a certified employee seeking to teach in
64 such a subject shortage area to substitute achievement of [an excellent]
65 a satisfactory score, as determined by the State Board of Education, on
66 any appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area
67 assessment for the subject area requirements for certification pursuant
68 to section 10-145f, as amended by this act.

69 Sec. 4. Section 8-265pp of the general statutes is repealed and the
70 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

71 The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall develop and
72 administer a program of mortgage assistance to certified teachers (1)
73 employed by priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, (2)
74 employed by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c,
75 (3) employed by the Technical Education and Career System at a
76 technical education and career school located in such priority or
77 transitional school districts, [or] (4) who teach in a subject matter

78 shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b, (5) who graduated from a
79 public high school in an educational reform district, as defined in
80 section 10-262u, or (6) who graduated from an historically black
81 college or university or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms
82 are defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as
83 amended from time to time, and reauthorized by the Higher Education
84 Opportunity Act of 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time.
85 Such assistance shall be available to eligible teachers for the purchase
86 of a house as their principal residence, provided, in the case of a
87 teacher employed by a priority or a transitional school district, or by
88 the Technical Education and Career System at a technical education
89 and career school located in a priority or transitional school district,
90 the house is located in such district. In making mortgage assistance
91 available under the program, the authority shall utilize down payment
92 assistance or any other appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of
93 any mortgage assistance shall allow the mortgagee to realize a
94 reasonable portion of the equity gain upon sale of the mortgaged
95 property.

96 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-183v of the general statutes is
97 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
98 *1, 2019*):

99 (b) A teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may be
100 reemployed for up to one full school year by a local board of
101 education, the State Board of Education or by any constituent unit of
102 the state system of higher education (1) in a position [(1)] designated
103 by the Commissioner of Education as a subject shortage area for the
104 school year in which the teacher is being employed, [or] (2) at a school
105 located in a school district identified as a priority school district,
106 pursuant to section 10-266p, for the school year in which the teacher is
107 being employed, (3) if the teacher graduated from a public high school
108 in an educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u, or (4) if
109 the teacher graduated from an historically black college or university
110 or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms are defined in the
111 Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as amended from time to

112 time, and reauthorized by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of
113 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time. Notice of such
114 reemployment shall be sent to the board by the employer and by the
115 retired teacher at the time of hire and at the end of the assignment.
116 Such reemployment may be extended for an additional school year,
117 provided the local board of education (A) submits a written request for
118 approval to the Teachers' Retirement Board, (B) certifies that no
119 qualified candidates are available prior to the reemployment of such
120 teacher, and (C) indicates the type of assignment to be performed, the
121 anticipated date of rehire and the expected duration of the assignment.

122 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is
123 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
124 *1, 2019*):

125 (a) The State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper
126 application, shall issue an initial educator certificate to any person who
127 (1) holds a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree from an institution
128 of higher education [accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher
129 Education or Office of Higher Education or] that is regionally
130 accredited or has received an equivalent accreditation, and (2) has
131 completed (A) an educator preparation program approved by the State
132 Board of Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in
133 which the institution of higher education is located, or (B) an alternate
134 route to certification program approved by the State Board of
135 Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in which
136 such alternate route to certification program is located, and satisfies
137 the requirements for a temporary ninety-day certificate, pursuant to
138 subsection (c) of this section, or a resident teacher certificate, pursuant
139 to section 10-145m. In addition, on and after July 1, 2018, each
140 applicant shall have completed a subject area major as defined by the
141 State Board of Education, except (i) as provided in section 10-145l, as
142 amended by this act, or (ii) where an applicant achieves a satisfactory
143 evaluation on an appropriate State Board of Education approved
144 subject area assessment [and] or has completed advanced coursework
145 in a relevant subject area. Each such initial educator certificate shall be

146 valid for three years, except as provided in subsection (c) of this
147 section, and may be extended by the Commissioner of Education for
148 an additional year for good cause upon the request of the
149 superintendent in whose school district such person is employed or
150 upon the request of the assessment team reviewing such person's
151 performance.

152 Sec. 7. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 10-145f of the general
153 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
154 (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

155 (e) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person
156 who holds a valid teaching certificate that is at least equivalent to an
157 initial educator certificate, as determined by the State Board of
158 Education, and such certificate is issued by a state other than
159 Connecticut in the subject area or endorsement area for which such
160 person is seeking certification in Connecticut shall not be required to
161 successfully complete the competency examination and subject matter
162 assessment pursuant to this section, if such person has either [(1)] (A)
163 successfully completed at least three years of teaching experience or
164 service in the endorsement area for which such person is seeking
165 certification in Connecticut in the past ten years in a public school or a
166 nonpublic school approved by the appropriate state board of
167 education in such other state, or [(2)] (B) holds a master's degree or
168 higher in the subject area for which such person is seeking certification
169 in Connecticut.

170 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person who
171 has held a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board of
172 Education and such certificate has expired shall not be required to
173 successfully complete the subject matter assessment in the
174 endorsement area for which such person is seeking renewal or
175 advancement of such certificate, pursuant to this section, if such
176 person has either (A) successfully completed at least three years of
177 teaching experience or service in a public school or a nonpublic school
178 under a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board of

179 Education or issued by a state other than Connecticut, in the past ten
180 years in such endorsement area, or (B) holds a master's degree or
181 higher in the subject area for which such person is seeking renewal or
182 advancement of such certificate.

183 (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person
184 who has achieved a satisfactory evaluation on an equivalent
185 competency examination or subject area assessment required for
186 educator certification in another state shall not be required to achieve a
187 satisfactory evaluation on the competency examination or subject
188 matter assessment pursuant to this section, provided the State Board of
189 Education determines that the requirements for achieving a
190 satisfactory evaluation on such equivalent competency examination or
191 subject area assessment in another state are at least equivalent to the
192 requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education for achieving
193 a satisfactory evaluation on the competency examination or subject
194 matter assessment pursuant to this section.

195 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person who
196 has previously achieved a satisfactory evaluation on an appropriate
197 State Board of Education approved subject area assessment for a
198 teaching certificate that has expired shall not be required to take the
199 appropriate subject matter assessment currently approved by the State
200 Board of Education, provided the Commissioner of Education
201 determines that the requirements for achieving a satisfactory
202 evaluation on such previous subject area assessment are at least
203 equivalent to the requirements prescribed by the State Board of
204 Education for such current subject matter assessment.

205 Sec. 8. Section 10a-168a of the general statutes is repealed and the
206 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

207 (a) There is established a Connecticut minority teacher incentive
208 program administered by the Office of Higher Education.

209 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
210 grants to minority students (1) in teacher education programs for their

211 junior or senior year, or both such years, at any four-year institution of
 212 higher education, (2) completing the requirements of such a teacher
 213 education program as a graduate student, provided such student
 214 received a grant pursuant to this section for one year at the
 215 undergraduate level, or (3) enrolled in the alternate route to
 216 certification program administered through the Office of Higher
 217 Education or the Department of Education. No student shall receive a
 218 grant under the program for more than two years. Maximum grants
 219 shall not exceed five thousand dollars per year. The office shall ensure
 220 that at least ten per cent of the grant recipients are minority students
 221 who transfer from a Connecticut regional community-technical college.

222 (c) A minority student who received grants under subsection (b) of
 223 this section, and who teaches in a Connecticut public school upon
 224 graduation, shall be eligible for reimbursement of federal or state
 225 educational loans up to a maximum of two thousand five hundred
 226 dollars per year for up to four years of teaching service.

227 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this
 228 section, the combined dollar value of grants and loan reimbursements
 229 shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars per student.

230 (e) The Office of Higher Education may accept gifts, grants and
 231 donations, from any source, public or private, for the Connecticut
 232 minority teacher incentive program."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-146c
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145l
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	8-265pp
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-183v(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145b(a)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145f(e) and (f)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10a-168a